

Message Text

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 2406

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BTIO, ECIND, TC

SUBJ: PLANS LARGE INDUSTRIAL PORT

1. NOVEMBER 3 ISSUE OF GULF WEEKLY MIRROR REPORTS THAT DUBAI PLANNING CONSTRUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL PORT ABOUT 20 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF DUBAI TOWN. THIS PORT WOULD SERVE THE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX PLANNED FOR THE JEBEL ALI AREA, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY INCLUDE AN ALUMINUM SMELTER, A STEAM POWER AND DESALINATION PLANT, A GAS PROCESSING FACILITY, AND A STEEL MILL.

2. SHEIKH RASHID, RULER OF DUBAI, HAS REQUESTED CONSULTING FIRM SIR WILLIAM HALCROW AND PARTNERS TO MAKE PRELIMINARY STUDIES. ACCORDING TO HALCROW CHIEF ENGINEER, RULER HAS CHOSEN SITE WHERE SHALLOW WATERS OF GULF WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE DREDGING, AND IF PROJECT IS EXECUTED, COST COULD EXCEED NINETY-MILLION POUND PRICE-TAG OF DUBAI DRY-DOCK.

3. TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD WILL BE, AS USUAL, RULER'S PERSONAL DECISION. ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE WORK ON JEBEL ALI INDUSTRIAL AREA COULD PROCEED WITHOUT CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH A PORT (USING BARGES FOR TRANS-SHIPMENT FROM PORT RASHID), CONSULTANTS FEEL THAT THIS PROJECT WILL PROCEED AND THAT TENDERS FOR INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS WILL BE ISSUED WITHIN THE NEXT THREE TO SIX MONTHS.

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